

Remarks

Claims 1-34 are currently pending in the Application and Claims 8-9 and 31 are canceled without prejudice.

Allowable Claims

Applicant acknowledges with gratitude the Examiner's indication of allowability as to Claims 9, 12-23 and 31-32.

Summary of claim amendments

This response amends Claim 1 to recite features of originally filed Claims 8-9 and cancels Claims 8-9 without prejudice. No new matter has been added.

This response amends Claim 24 to recite features of originally filed Claim 31 and cancels Claim 31 without prejudice. No new matter has been added.

This response amends Claim 32 to depend from Claim 24 instead of canceled Claim 31. No new matter has been added.

Rejections

Claims 1-5, 8, 10-11 and 24-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lai (U.S. Patent No. 5,766,967). Claims 6-7 and 29-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lai in view of Minter (U.S. Patent No. 6,255,035).

Applicant acknowledges with gratitude the Examiner's indication of allowability as to Claims 9, 12-23 and 31-32. Applicant traverses the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-8, 10-11 and 24-30 and disagrees that these claims are unpatentable in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,766,967 and U.S. Patent No. 6,255,035. However, in the interest of moving this application to issue, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 24 to include limitations of Claims 9 and 31, respectively, found patentable by the Examiner in the Office Action and

cancelled Claims 8-9 and 31 without prejudice, expressly reserving the right to present these or any other rejected claims or claims directed to other disclosed subject matter in a future divisional or continuation application.

Conclusion

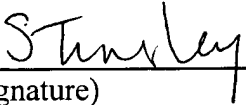
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Office with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, POB 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

February 10, 2006
(Date of Deposit)

Shannon Tinsley
(Name of Person Signing)


(Signature)

February 10, 2006
(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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